

Tavern
800 South Main Street
Winston-Salem
Forsyth County
North Carolina

HABS No. 12-03

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District of North Carolina

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared at Washington Office
for Southeast Unit

HABS
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34-WINSA

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TAVERN
800 South Main Street, Winston-Salem
Forsyth County, North Carolina

Owner: The Moravian Church

Date of erection: 1784

Present condition: Good

Architect: Attributed to Frederick William Marshall

Description:

Brick, Flemish bond; three stories; gable roof; end inside chimneys; long porch against front, shed roof; two-story brick ell in rear, end chimney.

Additional data:

Built by Moravian Congress, to replace earlier tavern which burned. Washington stayed here, May 31, 1791.

References:

Fries and Pfohl, The Moravian Church
N. C. Guide, p. 269

Thomas T. Waterman

11/1/40

The Tavern (Salem)
 800 South Main Street
 Winston-Salem, Forsyth County
 North Carolina

Owners: Messrs. H. A. Pfohl and H. F. Shaffner
 Date of Erection: 1784 (original part). Additions, 1816,
 Architect: H. A. Pfohl 1832, 1834, 1842, 1853 (see text).
 Builder: H. A. Pfohl
 Present Condition: Good
 Number of Stories: Two and a half, and basement
 Materials of Construction: Brick
 Other Existing Records: See text, last page of this project.¹
 Additional Data: See following pages.

¹ See also the following reference:

White Pine Series of Architectural Monographs
 Vol. XV, no. 2

The Salem Tavern is now occupied by Miss Ada Allen and sister, Mrs. Hansell P. Thomas, who leased it in 1929. They have taken pride in preserving it, and in arranging appointments for visitors to see it.

The following is a list of previous owners with dates: Moravian Congregation of Salem, "Salem Tavern," 1772-1850; Adam Butner, "Butner Hotel," 1850-1858; N. A. Chaffin, "Chaffin Hotel," 1858-1868; Adam Butner, "Salem Hotel," 1868-1884; Dr. Z. Swift of Florida, 1884-1890; owned by a Company who rented it for tenement purposes, 1890-1905; H. A. Pfohl and H. F. Shaffner, present owners, 1905 to date. (April 18, 1934.)

The list of landlords with dates while it was owned by the Moravian Congregation of Salem is as follows:

No. 1

| | |
|-------------|------------------|
| Jacob Meyer | 1772-1780 |
| Jacob Meyer | 1780-May 5, 1780 |

F. W. DeMarshall
John H. Herbst
Wardens.

No. 2

| | |
|------------|--------------|
| Jacob Blum | May 30, 1787 |
|------------|--------------|

F. W. DeMarshall
Ch. L. Bensein

No. 3

| | |
|------------|--------------|
| Adam Flrod | Feb. 1, 1803 |
|------------|--------------|

Sam'l Stotz

No. 4

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| John Lehnert | Oct 31, 1807 |
|--------------|--------------|

Sam'l Stotz

No. 5

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| John C. Blum | Jan. 2, 1811 |
|--------------|--------------|

Sam'l Stotz

No. 6

Isaac Boner Dec. 1, 1815

Sam'l Stotz

No. 7

Gottlieb Byhan Nov. 1, 1816

Sam'l Stotz

No. 8

Matthew Rights Dec. 1, 1820

(Not signed)

No. 9

Benjamin Warner Dec. 1, 1825

Gottlieb Byhan

No. 10

Dan'l. C. Welfare Dec. 1, 1831

Ch. L. Benzein

No. 11

Henry Sensman Oct. 1, 1833

Theo. Shultz

No. 12

Wm. Gott Jan. 1, 1840

S. T. Pfohl

No. 13

Thos. Wilson, Sr. Sept. 1843

S. T. Pfohl

No. 14

Timothy Vogler Nov. 10, 1844

S. T. Pfohl

No. 15

Thos. Boner

Nov. 10, 1846

S. T. Pfohl

In 1768 the site for the "Salem Tavern" was selected. The first building of frame construction was destroyed by fire January 31, 1784. Work was started on the present building December 20, 1784. In 1816 the first addition was erected and was known as the new Tavern. In 1832 a dining room was built, connecting the new building with the brick building, and was later used as a parlor. In 1834 a frame building was added at the west side of the main building for landlord and family. In 1842 a new dining room and a ball room were erected. In 1853 more room was needed at the "Butner Hotel" and a large frame addition was erected at the north end, completing the building with its double porches one hundred and seventy odd feet long.

In 1905 when the property passed into the hands of the present owners, the buildings were put into good repair, changing the northern end into two nicely appointed dwellings, removing an in-between building, and leaving the old brick building as it originally was when it bore the name of "Salem Tavern," prior to ownership by Adam Butner.

May 31, 1932 a pageant was given, reminiscent of the visit of President George Washington, in memory of the bicentennial of his birth.

President George Washington was entertained here May 31 and June 1, as he was returning from his southern tour in 1791. There have been many other notable visitors entertained at the Tavern, too numerous to mention.

The place flourished as a Hotel under the proprietorship of Adam Butner during the stage-coach days; and later, when the locomotive in 1873 drove the stage-coaches away to do service in the mountains around Asheville, N. C., the Butner Hotel bus was kept busy, rumbling on its way to and from the depot.

The year 1857 is memorable in the history of the old Hotel on account of the death of Augusta Staub, which occurred August 2, eleven o'clock at night, while experimenting with chemicals. The terrible explosion tore through the walls, shattered the window and flung the piano across the room, and killed Mr. Staub, scorching and mangling him terribly. Had it not been for a strong, supporting chimney, that entire portion of the Hotel would have been destroyed.

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This data taken from "The Old Salem Tavern" by William S. Pfohl. This article was published in the Union Republican, Winston Salem, N. C. in 1908.

William Roy Wallace

Approved

M. Q. Mark

District Officer

Revised 1936, H.C.F.

For additional literature of historical and descriptive data of the Tavern, the following is a list:

The Moravian Church Yesterday and Today, by Adelaide L. Fries, M. A. and J. Kenneth Pfohl, D. D. The book may be secured through the Salem Book Store, 9 Academy Street, Winston Salem, N. C.

The Monograph Series, No. 2 Vol. XV. Published by Russell F. Whitehead, 148 East 61st Street, New York, N. Y.

Data from official Diary of Salem Congregation, preserved in Salem Moravian Archives, Winston Salem, N. C.

"The Old Salem Tavern," by William S. Pfohl. Published by Union Republican, Winston Salem, N. C., in 1908.